CLAIMS:

- 1. A method for treating multiple myeloma comprising administering to an individual a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an antagonist of an interaction between an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin and a ligand for an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the antagonist is an $\alpha 4$ integrin binding agent.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the antagonist is an $\alpha 4$ integrin ligand binding agent.
- 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the $\alpha 4$ integrin binding agent is selected from the group consisting of: a) an antibody homolog that antagonizes the interaction of both VLA-4 and $\alpha 4\beta 7$ with their respective $\alpha 4$ ligands; b) an antibody homolog that antagonizes the interaction of VLA-4 with its $\alpha 4$ ligand; and c) an antibody homolog that antagonizes the interaction of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ with its $\alpha 4$ ligand.
- 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the antibody homolog is selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.

- 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the $\alpha 4$ integrin ligand binding agent is an anti-VCAM-1 antibody homolog.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the antibody homolog is selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the antagonist is a small molecule.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said antagonist is an antagonist of VLA-4.
- 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said small molecule is:

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered at a dosage so as to provide from about 0.1 to about 20 mg/kg body weight.

- 12. A method for treating multiple myeloma comprising administering to an individual a therapeutically effective amount of a first composition comprising an antagonist of an interaction between an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin and a ligand for an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin, wherein said first composition is administered in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of a second composition comprising a compound that is not an antagonist of an interaction between an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin and a ligand for an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin and a ligand for an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin and a ligand for an
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said compound is a chemotherapeutic agent.
- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said chemotherapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of melphalan, a bisphosphonate, thalidomide, erythropoietin, an antagonist of IL6 and an antagonist of IL15.
- 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said chemotherapeutic agent is melphalan.
- 16. The method of claim 12, wherein, to be therapeutically effective, a dosage of said antagonist is lower when administered in combination with said second composition than not administered in combination with said second composition; or

a dosage of said compound is lower when administered in combination with said first composition than not administered in combination with said second composition, or both.

- 17. A method for inhibiting bone resorption associated with tumors of bone marrow, the method comprising administering to a mammal with said tumors an antagonist of an interaction between an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin and a ligand for an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin, in an amount effective to provide inhibition of said bone resorption.
- 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the antagonist is an $\alpha 4$ integrin binding agent.
- 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the antagonist is an $\alpha 4$ integrin ligand binding agent.
- 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the $\alpha 4$ integrin binding agent is an anti-VLA4 antibody homolog or anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody homolog.
- 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the antibody homolog is selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.

- 22. The method of claim 19, wherein the $\alpha 4$ integrin ligand binding agent is an anti-VCAM-1 antibody homolog.
- 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the antibody homolog is selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.
- 24. The method of claim 17, wherein the antagonist is a small molecule.
- 25. The method of claim 17, wherein said antagonist is an antagonist of VLA-4.
- 26. The method of claim 24, wherein said small molecule is:

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27. The method of claim 17, wherein the antagonist is administered at a dosage so as to provide

from about 0.1 to about 20 mg/kg, based on the weight of the individual.

- 28. The method of claim 24, wherein the antagonist is administered in an amount effective to provide a dosage of small molecule of about 0.1-30 mg/kg body weight.
- 29. The method of claim 17, wherein said antagonist is administered in combination with a compound that is not an antagonist of an interaction between an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin and a ligand for an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin.
- 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said compound is a chemotherapeutic agent.
- 31. The method of claim 30, wherein said chemotherapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of melphalan, a bisphosphonate, thalidomide, erythropoietin, an antagonist of IL6 and an antagonist of IL15.
- 32. The method of claim 30, wherein said chemotherapeutic agent is melphalan.
- 33. The method of claim 29, wherein, to be therapeutically effective, a dosage of said antagonist is lower when administered in combination with said compound than not administered in combination with said compound; or

a dosage of said compound is lower when administered in combination with said antagonist than not administered in combination with said antagonist, or both.

- 34. A method of treating a subject having a disorder characterized by the presence of osteoclastogenesis, the method comprising administering to the subject an antagonist of an interaction between an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin and a ligand for an $\alpha 4$ subunit bearing integrin, in an amount sufficient to suppress the osteoclastogenesis.
- 35. The method of claim 34, wherein the antagonist is an $\alpha 4$ integrin binding agent.
- 36. The method of claim 34, wherein the antagonist is an $\alpha 4$ integrin ligand binding agent.
- 37. The method of claim 35, wherein the $\alpha 4$ integrin binding agent is an anti-VLA4 antibody homolog or an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ binding agent.
- 38. The method of claim 36, wherein the antibody homolog is selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.
- 39. The method of claim 36, wherein the $\alpha 4$ integrin ligand binding agent is an anti-VCAM-1 antibody homolog.

- 40. The method of claim 39, wherein the antibody homolog is selected from the group consisting of a human antibody, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody and fragments thereof.
- 41. The method of claim 34 wherein the antagonist is a small molecule.
- 42. The method of claim 41, wherein said antagonist is an antagonist of VLA-4.
- 43. The method of claim 41, wherein said small molecule is:

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- 44. The method of claim 34, wherein the antagonist is administered at a dosage so as to provide from about 0.1 to about 20 mg/kg body weight.
- 45. The method of claim 41, wherein the antagonist is administered in an amount effective to

provide a dosage of small molecule of about 0.1-20 mg/kg body weight.

- 46. The method of claim 34, wherein said antagonist is administered in combination with a compound that is not an antagonist of an interaction between an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin and a ligand for an $\alpha 4$ subunit-bearing integrin.
- 47. The method of claim 46, wherein said compound is a chemotherapeutic agent.
- 48. The method of claim 47, wherein said chemotherapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of melphalan, a bisphosphonate, thalidomide, erythropoietin, an antagonist of IL6 and an antagonist of IL15.
- 49. The method of claim 47, wherein said chemotherapeutic agent is melphalan.
- 50. The method of claim 46, wherein, to be therapeutically effective,
- a dosage of said antagonist is lower when administered in combination with said compound than not administered in combination with said compound; or
- a dosage of said compound is lower when administered in combination with said antagonist than not administered in combination with said antagonist, or both.